

REMARKS

1. The rejection of claims 1 - 10 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Patent Application 2003/0191676 (Templeton) is respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the amendments.
2. The claims have been amended to emphasize that when the system has received availability signals and has initiated the conference call, but finds that one of the terminals does not respond (for whatever reason) the system then suspends the conference call.
3. Applicants maintain that this feature is not found in Templeton. Templeton implicitly assumes that the availability signal is infallible - i.e. that the recipient who has been identified by the system as being available will respond.
4. With respect to independent claims 1, 6, 8 and 11, the claims now require that the program have provision for suspending the conference call if one or more of the requested participants do not respond to the request. The call is rescheduled later after a delay interval. Support is found in the last paragraph of page 8 and the first paragraph of page 9.
5. With respect to dependent claims 2, 12 and 13, an additional feature is specified that the conference call is triggered by an external event. When the event happens, the system executes the conference call setup and polling procedure as though one of the users had just initiated it. The list of attendees and the

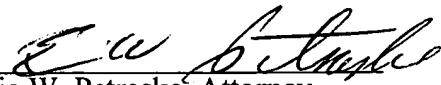
triggering event will have been specified in advance, of course. Support is found on page 12.

6. The system may acquire knowledge of the triggering event in any number of ways. The specification lists some examples and those skilled in the art will readily be able to think of more - an alarm signal for fire, a high number for inventor shrinkage, a low number for sales, or any other number that is entered into modern databases used by corporations and other organizations.
7. These claims thus deal with a situation in which a meeting is called upon the occurrence of a triggering event and the indication of availability of the members, but is postponed when some of the members do not respond.
8. Applicants respectfully submit that the features of these claims are not shown or suggested by the Templeton reference, which does not, as far as Applicants' attorney can ascertain does not contemplate this situation.
9. Applicants attorney has reviewed the other cited references and has not found material that would combine with the Templeton reference to render the amended claims non-patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

by:


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